

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH 2017

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 1, 2017

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect and admiration that I rise today in observance of Women's History Month and its 2017 theme: Honoring Trailblazing Women in Labor and Business. Each year, the National Women's History Project selects a unifying theme to recognize and promote Women's History Month. This year's theme features the stories of women from diverse backgrounds and different fields who have challenged and changed the paid labor force to secure equal rights and equal opportunities for women in the workplace.

Despite facing barriers in the workplace, women have always worked and, at times in America's history, have provided the majority of the volunteer labor force. Women of every race, class, and ethnic background are woven into the history of our nation's labor force and continue to significantly impact social and legal structure in the workplace.

Longstanding constraints, including religious and educational conventions, often meant women experienced limited opportunities, low wages, and poor working conditions while performing low-skill, short-term labor positions in the American workforce. Strong role models such as Kate Mullany and Lucy Gonzalez-Parsons were pioneers in the organized labor field in the late 19th century through the turn of 20th century. These women forged the way for other women in all professions, trades, and the arts and sciences to organize for better working conditions and fair wages. Because of these courageous trailblazers, women today, such as Yvonne Walker, the first African-American woman to serve as President of the Service Employees International Union (SEIU), and Lily Ledbetter, whose landmark Supreme Court case of employee discrimination brought about legislative changes and the eponymous Fair Pay Act of 2009, women today are empowered to serve as activists in the fight for fairness in the workplace. These remarkable women were leaders and organizers who not only secured their own rights and access to equal opportunity but also served as a voice for many women who were undervalued and underpaid.

Women today continue to carry the torch to secure workplace justice and equality and to contest and challenge norms in the American workforce. These female entrepreneurs, labor leaders, and innovators have challenged stereotypes and social assumptions about who women are and what they can achieve. These strong women, past and present, serve as remarkable role models who reflect the 2017 theme, Honoring Trailblazing Women in Labor and Business.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to join in celebrating Women's History Month and to recognize that after decades of dedication, perse-

verance, contributions, and advances, the stories of American women from all cultures and classes are being printed, spoken, recognized, and celebrated. In an effort to illustrate the many courageous and dedicated women throughout America's history, we remember and recount the tales of our ancestors' talents, sacrifices, and commitments that serve as an inspiration to today's generation of both women and men. I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in celebrating meaningful and substantial impact women have had in labor and business throughout our nation's history.

HONORING COACH JIM TATE ON HIS 100TH STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. BRADLEY BYRNE

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 1, 2017

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Coach Jim Tate on winning his 100th State Championship. This is a remarkable and impressive achievement, and it highlights Coach Tate's dedication to the young men and women he has coached throughout his illustrious career.

A native of Mobile, Coach Tate is a graduate of The Citadel and received a master's degree from the University of Alabama. He is also a veteran who served in the U.S. Army from 1964 to 1969. During his military service, he served in Vietnam with the elite 173rd Airborne Brigade.

After brief stints at schools in South Carolina and Georgia, Coach Tate started coaching at Mobile's St. Paul's Episcopal School in 1978. After originally coaching other sports, he settled in as the boys and girls track and cross country coach in 1981.

Throughout his career, Coach Tate broke numerous state and national records, including the nation's record for the longest consecutive state championship streak in the nation at 16 (1983 to 1998). He has also been inducted into the Mobile Sports Hall of Fame and the National High School Hall of Fame.

On February 4, 2017, Coach Tate's St. Paul's girls indoor track and field team won the Class 4A–5A state championship at the Birmingham CrossPlex. This marked Coach Tate's 100th state title.

Mr. Speaker, Jim Tate has had a positive impact on countless student athletes throughout his career. Over 60 of his former athletes have gone on to perform at the collegiate level. Like any good leader, Coach Tate attributes his success to his athletes, parents, and supporters, but there is no denying his remarkable ability to get the best out of the people he coaches.

Many high schools can only dream of having 100 state championships in their entire history, but Coach Tate has reached that level himself. This high level of success is a testament to his drive, motivation, knowledge, and character.

So, on behalf of Alabama's First Congressional District, I want to thank Coach Tate for his service to our nation and congratulate him on winning his 100th State Championship.

REMEMBERING THE VICTIMS OF THE SUMGAIT POGROMS

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 1, 2017

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 29th Anniversary of the pogrom against the Armenian residents of the town of Sumgait, Azerbaijan. Twenty-nine years ago, Azerbaijani mobs assaulted and killed their Armenian neighbors. When the violence finally subsided, hundreds of Armenian civilians had been brutally murdered and injured, women and young girls were raped, and victims were tortured and burned alive. Those that survived the carnage fled their homes and businesses, leaving behind everything they had in their desperation.

The pogroms were the culmination of years of vicious anti-Armenian propaganda, spread by the Azerbaijani authorities. The Azerbaijani authorities made little effort to punish those responsible, instead attempting to cover up the atrocities in Sumgait to this day, as well as denying the role of senior government officials in instigating the violence. Unsurprisingly, it was not the end of the violence, and was followed by additional attacks, including the 1990 pogrom in Baku.

The Sumgait massacre and the subsequent attacks on ethnic Armenians, resulted in the virtual disappearance of a once thriving population of 450,000 Armenians living in Azerbaijan, and culminating in the war launched against the people of Nagorno Karabakh. That war resulted in thousands dead on both sides and created over one million refugees in both Armenia and Azerbaijan.

Time has not healed the wounds of those murdered in the pogroms in Sumgait, Kirovabad, and Baku. To the contrary, hatred of Armenians is celebrated in Azerbaijan, a situation most vividly exemplified by the case of Ramil Safarov, an Azerbaijani army captain who savagely murdered an Armenian army lieutenant, Gurgen Margaryan with an axe while he slept. The two were participating in a NATO Partnership for Peace exercise at the time in Hungary. In 2012, Safarov was sent home to Azerbaijan, purportedly to serve out the remainder of his sentence. Instead, he was pardoned, promoted, and paraded through the streets of Baku as a returning hero.

The assault on ethnic Armenian civilians in Sumgait helped touch off what would become a direct conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan over Nagorno Karabakh. And today, Azerbaijan's dangerous behavior on the Line of Contact threatens peace and stability in the region. Artillery and sniper fire across the Line

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